



## The Stone Soup Leadership Institute Young Heroes Award to Benita Davis

MASSACHUSETTS – August 1, 2021: The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is pleased to present its third **Young Heroes Award** to 26 year old Benita Davis in Guyana for her leadership with the River Guardian Project. Other recipients include 16 year old Autumn Peltier, Water Walker of the Anishinabek Nation in Canada and 24 year old Vanessa Nakate, founder of Rise Up Africa! for her Green Schools Solar Panel Project in Uganda. These youth leaders are among the 100 young heroes in the book, *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes*.

*A trip to Guyana's interior opened her eyes to the myriad ways mining and oil exploration is hurting the country's natural resources, such as its rivers, lakes and streams, and impacting indigenous communities. The time she spent in the Kaieteur National Park – living off the land and the river alongside indigenous communities – inspired her to educate her compatriots about the importance of protecting freshwater resources. Guyana is called the "land of many waters," and as a water guardian, Benita is on the front lines of the battle to protect this precious resource.*

*The Land of Many Waters*

The **Young Heroes Award** supports young leaders who are on the front lines of climate change - social, economic, environmental justice who are featured in the book, *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes*. The **Institute's Young Heroes Fund** provides financial support, mentors, training, and partnerships for these young leaders to scale their efforts and engage others to help rebuild the planet.

The **Young Heroes Fund** grant to Benita Davis was made possible from a donation from Hillary Peterson, Founder, True Botanicals. "I am so inspired by Benita's important work. Leveraging education in order to make clean water more accessible will make a big difference in the lives of so many and it is my honor to contribute to this meaningful project."

"I'm grateful to all these extraordinary young people featured in this book who are demanding that their voices be heard," Actor Laura Dern and True Botanicals partner. "May we be inspired by their radical bravery and ingenuity as they lead the charge for a healthier and more sustainable future."

"I would like to express my heartfelt thank you to the Stone Soup Leadership Institute and to Hillary Peterson for her generous project grant," says Benita Davis who also leads the Policy Forum Guyana. "I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of this grant. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal of ensuring the phase-out of mercury and promoting freshwater protection through education in Guyana, South America."

"It's an honor to work with these brave young people and write their stories. There is a whole new generation that is filled with an inspiring, energetic determination to awaken all of us, and inspire us to build a better world. They deserve our support," says Marianne Larned, author of the bestselling book, *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life Changing Stories of Young Heroes* and *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes* and Founding Director of the Stone Soup Leadership Institute.

### About the Stone Soup Leadership Institute

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is a 501c3 nonprofit organization founded in 1997 in Massachusetts. For over 20 years, the Institute has recognized those on the front lines of climate change, social justice and economic equity around the world. The Institute's deep commitment to education as the foundation for a more equitable world has led to the development of their educational tools and trainings; global sustainable leadership summits; and youth and community leadership initiatives from the inner cities of Baltimore, Boston, Cincinnati, and Oakland to the island communities of Vieques, Puerto Rico; Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Gorda; Bristol and Newport, Rhode Island;

Hawaii and Martha's Vineyard. All proceeds from book sales support the Institute's work with young people around the world.

**Stone Soup Leadership Institute**  
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